

January - 25

## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new ginger species named Parakaempferia alba of Zingiberaceae family in the Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Punjab has inaugurated its first Dog Sanctuary in Ludhiana to manage stray dog populations humanely.
- ❖ India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives concluded the 17th edition of the Coast Guard exercise DOSTI-17, which was hosted by the Maldives.
- ❖ Veteran music composer Ilaiyaraaja was selected to receive the Padmapani Award at the 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal has announced her retirement from competitive badminton in January 2026.
- ❖ The National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship was inaugurated in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has inaugurated a Special Veterinary Complex for community dogs in Ranipet district, focusing on villages and small towns.
  - It is the first facility of its kind in Tamil Nadu, meant exclusively for the community dogs.
- ❖ Yash Anil Rashiya, a 20-year-old Roll Ball athlete from Surat, won the gold medal at the 7th Roll Ball World Cup 2025 held in Dubai.
- ❖ Bakul Limbasiya, founder of Bhathwari Technologies, received the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) National Award for Productivity Leadership in 2026.
- ❖ Operation Trashi-I began in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, as a joint operation by the Indian Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police (including Special Operations Group), and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
  - The aim is to eliminate terrorists, destroy their hideouts, and disrupt infiltration routes from the Jammu region to the Kashmir Valley.

## **TAMIL NADU NEWS**

### **Global Tourism Summit 2026**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is organising the Tamil Nadu Global Tourism Summit 2026 in Mahabalipuram to promote tourism investment and growth in the state.

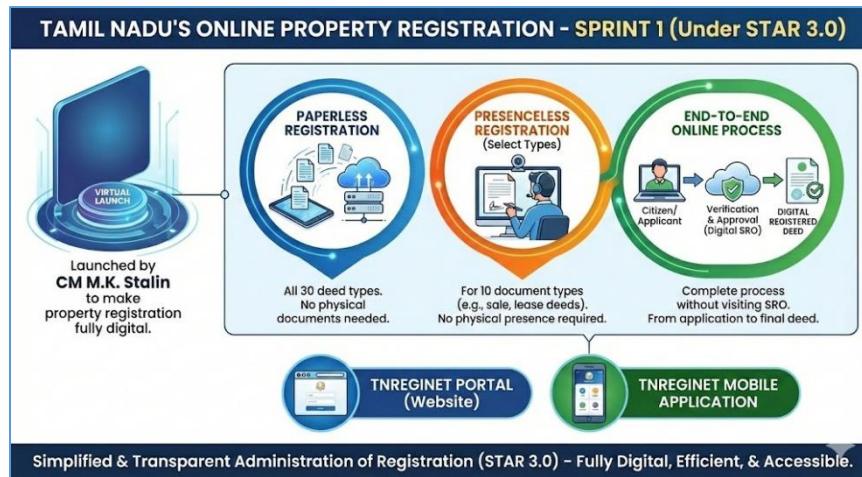
- ❖ The summit will be held as a global platform to showcase Tamil Nadu's tourism strengths.
- ❖ It will bring together policymakers, global investors, industry leaders, and developers.
- ❖ The aim is to attract new-age investments and increase tourist arrivals.
- ❖ Key focus areas include digital and travel technology, eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and blue economy tourism.
- ❖ The summit also focuses on youth opportunities through start-ups, skills, and employment in tourism.



### Online Property Registration - Sprint 1

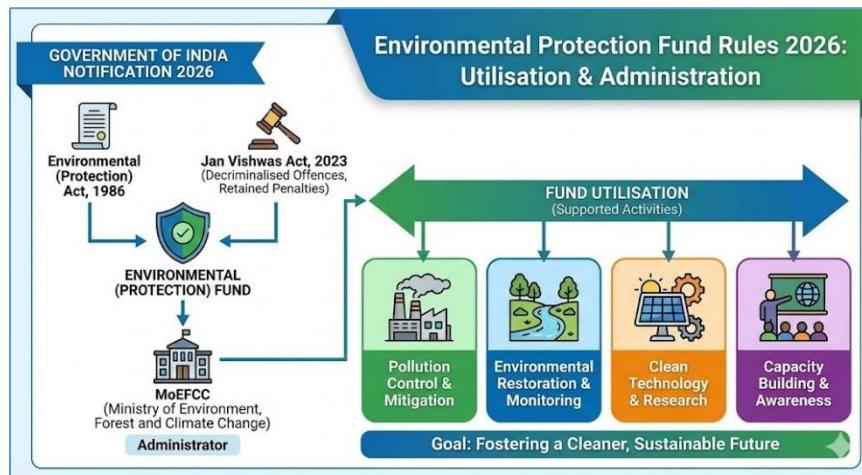
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched Sprint 1 to make the property registration fully digital.
- ❖ Sprint 1 was launched under the STAR 3.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration).
- ❖ It provides paperless registration for all 30 deed types without carrying physical documents.
- ❖ Presence less registration is available for 10 document types, including sale and lease deeds.

- ❖ Citizens can complete end-to-end registration online without visiting the Sub Registrar Office (SRO).
- ❖ The services are available through the TNREGINET portal and mobile application.



## NATIONAL NEWS

### Environmental Protection Fund Rules 2026

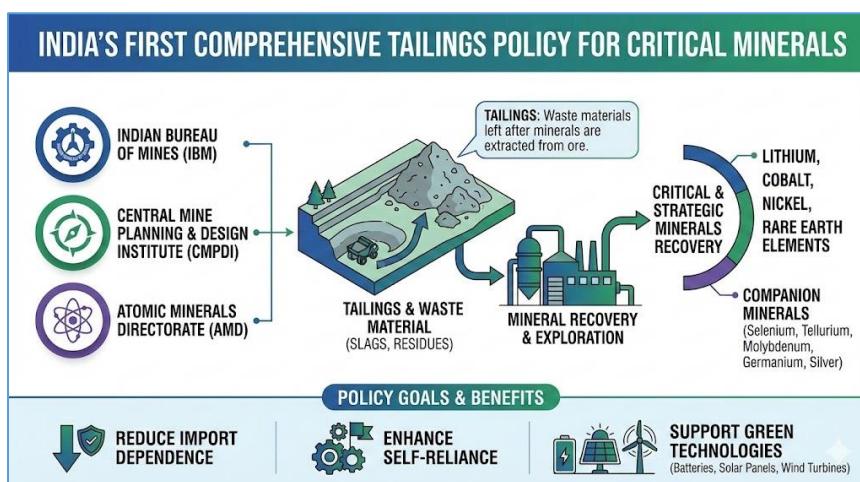


- ❖ The Union Government notified detailed rules 2026 for the utilisation and administration of the Environmental (Protection) Fund.
- ❖ The fund is provided under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❖ It was strengthened through the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which decriminalised offences but retained monetary penalties.
- ❖ The fund uses penalties collected for pollution control, environmental restoration, and monitoring.

- ❖ It is administered by the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).
- ❖ The fund supports pollution mitigation, clean technology, research, and capacity building.

### India's First Policy for Critical Minerals

- ❖ The Government of India announced the first comprehensive tailings policy.
- ❖ Tailings are waste materials left after minerals are extracted from ore.
- ❖ The policy allows recovery of critical and strategic minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements from mine waste, tailings ponds, slags, and industrial residues.
- ❖ Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), and Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) will explore and assess these materials.
- ❖ Many companion minerals, including selenium, tellurium, molybdenum, germanium, and silver, are present alongside primary ores.
- ❖ The policy aims to reduce import dependence, enhance self-reliance, and support green technologies like batteries, solar panels, and wind turbines.



### Steel Slag Technology

- ❖ Union Minister Jitendra Singh proposed using steel slag for road construction in hilly and Himalayan regions.
- ❖ Steel slag is an industrial by-product from steel manufacturing, reused for stronger and more durable roads.
- ❖ The technology improves road strength, water resistance, and reduces repair time.

- ❖ Special focus is on the Himalayan states where landslides and heavy rains damage roads.
- ❖ ECOFIX, a ready-to-use pothole repair mix using steel slag, was developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute with Technology Development Board support.
- ❖ A slag processing facility with a capacity of 2 lakh tonnes per year is planned for 2027 to support commercial use and sustainable roads.



### Atal Pension Yojana extension

**CABINET APPROVES  
CONTINUATION OF ATAL PENSION  
YOJANA UP TO FY 2030-31**

**Implementation strategy:**

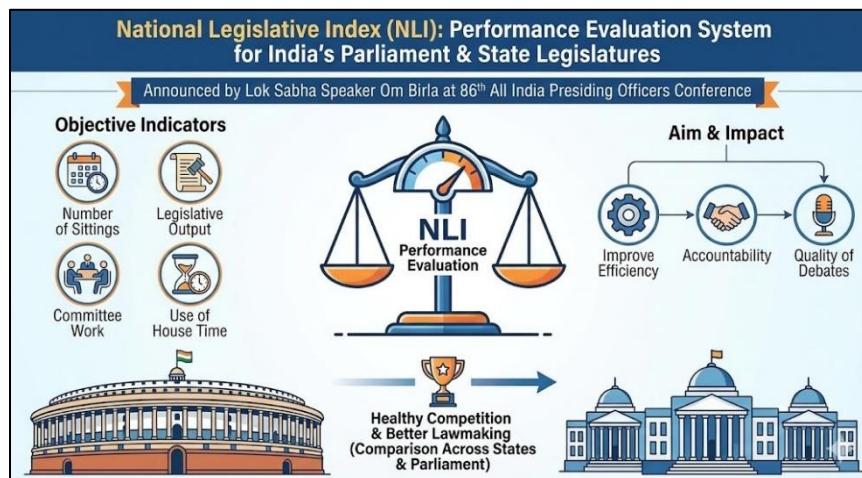
- Promotional & developmental activities to expand outreach among unorganised workers**
- Gap funding to meet viability requirements & ensure sustainability of scheme**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) until the financial year 2030–31.
- ❖ APY is a government-backed pension scheme for unorganised sector workers, including labourers, vendors, and domestic helpers.

- ❖ The scheme was launched on May 9, 2015, and provides a fixed monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after the age of 60.
- ❖ The government will continue funding awareness programs, training, and gap support to make the scheme sustainable.
- ❖ As of January 19, 2026, more than 8.66 crore people have subscribed to the scheme.
- ❖ APY helps workers save regularly, ensures income security in old age, and promotes financial inclusion.

### National Legislative Index

- ❖ The National Legislative Index (NLI) was announced by Lok Sabha Speaker at the 86<sup>th</sup> All India Presiding Officers Conference.
- ❖ It is a performance evaluation system to measure and compare the work of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- ❖ The NLI uses objective indicators like the number of sittings, legislative output, committee work, and use of House time.
- ❖ The aim is to improve efficiency, accountability, and quality of debates in legislatures.
- ❖ It allows the comparison across states and Parliament to encourage healthy competition and better lawmaking.



### All India Presiding Officers' Conference 2026 – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) was held in Lucknow.
- ❖ The conference is the highest national forum for presiding officers of Parliament and all State and Union Territory legislatures.

- ❖ It aims to enhance legislative efficiency, accountability, transparency, and deliberation quality, and to foster best practices among Parliament and State Legislatures.
- ❖ Around 36 presiding officers from 24 States and UTs attended, making it the largest AIPOC to date.
- ❖ Six key resolutions were adopted, including ensuring at least 30 sittings per year in state legislatures and creating a National Legislative Index to compare and improve legislative performance.
- ❖ The theme was “Strong Legislature-Prosperous Nation”.

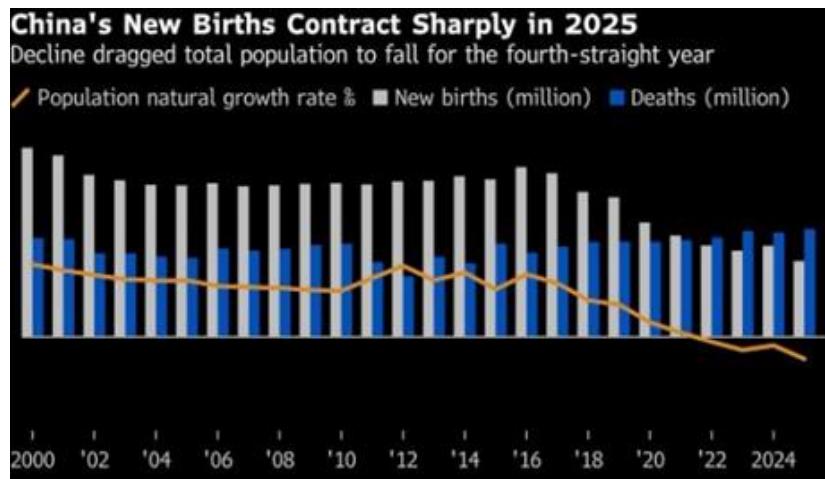


## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### China's Demographic Decline in 2025

- ❖ China's population declined again in 2025 despite new birth incentive policies.
- ❖ China's population fell by about 3 million in 2025, marking the fourth straight year of decline.
- ❖ Births dropped to a record low of 7.92 million in 2025.
- ❖ The birth rate fell to 5.63 births per 1,000 people, the lowest ever recorded.
- ❖ China's fertility rate is estimated to be around 1, below the replacement level of 2.1.

- ❖ The decline continues despite cash incentives and policy changes to encourage childbirth.



### Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

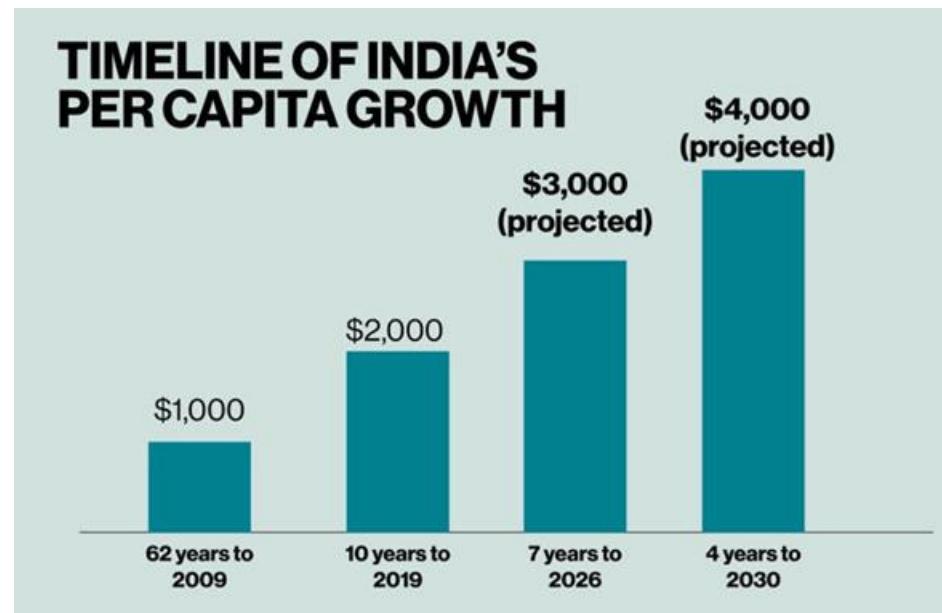


- ❖ Spain has joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by handing over the Declaration of Accession to India's External Affairs Minister.
- ❖ IPOI is a voluntary, non-treaty framework for maritime cooperation, launched by India in 2019 under the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.
- ❖ The aim is to promote a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ It focuses on practical cooperation in maritime security, ecology, resources, disaster management, science & technology, trade, and connectivity.

- ❖ Countries can voluntarily lead individual thematic pillars, and the initiative takes a non-military, non-bloc approach.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### Upper Middle-Income Status – India



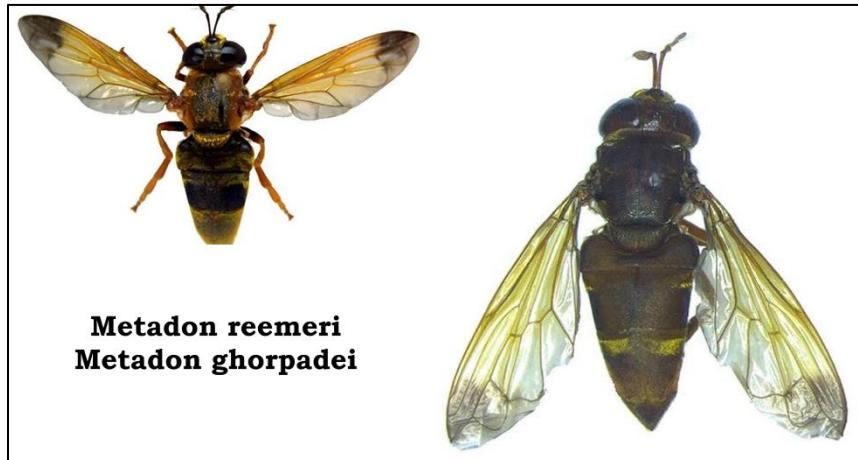
- ❖ India is projected to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and the third largest economy by 2028.
- ❖ The World Bank's classifies low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income and high-income countries by their per capita Gross National Income (GNI) in US dollar.
- ❖ The threshold for upper-middle income country is per capita GNI of around \$4,500.
- ❖ As of 2024 data, only 26 countries remain low-income, 50 are middle-income, 54 are upper-middle income, and 87 are high-income.
- ❖ India moved from lower-middle income category in 2007, when its per capita GNI jumped from \$90 in 1961 to \$910 in 2007.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Two New Rare Ant Fly Species

- ❖ Scientists have discovered two new extremely rare species of ant flies in Delhi and the Western Ghats.

- ❖ The species are named *Metadon ghorpadei* and *Metadon reemeri*.
- ❖ They belong to the subfamily Microdontinae (family: Syrphidae).
- ❖ *Metadon Ghorpadei* was found in the northern ridge forest of Delhi.
- ❖ *Metadon reemeri* was discovered in the Siruvani hills of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### Responsible Nations Index 2026



- ❖ The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) 2026 was launched to assess how nations act responsibly towards citizens, the environment, and the global community.

- ❖ The index was formally launched in New Delhi by former President Ram Nath Kovind under the aegis of the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF).
- ❖ Singapore ranked first among 154 countries in the index.
- ❖ India secured the 16th position, ahead of the United States and China.
- ❖ The index shifts focus from conventional power measures to ethical governance and responsibility.

### Numbeo Safety Index 2026



- ❖ The Numbeo Safety Index 2026 rankings were released, covering 304 cities worldwide.
- ❖ Qingdao in China was ranked as the safest city in the world.
- ❖ Mangaluru in Karnataka emerged as the safest city in India.
- ❖ The index measures perceived safety and crime levels based on survey responses, including violent crime, property crime, and safety while walking alone at night.
- ❖ The top five safest cities in India are Mangaluru (74.4), Ahmedabad (68.5), Jaipur (65.3), Coimbatore (62.0), and Thiruvananthapuram (61.0).
- ❖ Overall, India ranked 70th globally among countries, with an average safety score of 55.8, which falls in the moderate safety category.

- ❖ Large metropolitan areas such as Delhi, Noida, and Gurugram ranked among the least safe cities in India.
- ❖ The safest countries globally in 2026 include the UAE (86.0), Qatar (84.8), and Andorra (84.8). Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, and Haiti were among the least safe countries.

## STATES' NEWS

### New Spaceport at Hope Island

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced a new spaceport at Hope Island.
- ❖ The spaceport will mainly support private launch missions under the Space City initiative.
- ❖ It is part of India's growing space infrastructure alongside Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) and Kulasekharapattinam Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) complex.
- ❖ The facility will focus on small and medium-lift launch vehicles for commercial and private missions.
- ❖ Hope Island is located off the coast of Kakinada in the Bay of Bengal, near the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ Its location helps in efficient eastward rocket launches and supports India's private space sector growth.



Andhra Pradesh plans a satellite launch site at Hope Island, Kakinada, proposed as India's third spaceport.

